For connecting Bangladesh, survey for new line from Agartala to Akhaura (Bangladesh) has been taken up. The survey in Indian territory has been completed and in Bangladesh territory, survey is being done by Bangladesh authorities.

Medical Facilities to Passengers

†2999. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangement to provide medical facilities to the passengers falling sick during rail-journey;

(b) who is responsible for providing medical facilities in trains; and

(c) the policy for giving compensation to the passengers who die during journey for want of medical facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) All long distance Passenger carrying trains are provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs and dressing materials and the First Aid Boxes are available with the Guards of all the trains. In addition Augmented First Aid Boxes with additional medicines, disposable medical material, etc. have been provided with the Train Superintendents/Pantry Car Managers of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express Trains and on nominated long distance Mail /Express trains. Services of Train Superintendents, Train-Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, Pantry Car Managers and doctors travelling as passengers are also utilized to attend to passengers who are in need of urgent medical assistance. The front line staff viz. Train Superintendents, Train-Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, etc. are all trained in rendering first aid. Trains also make unscheduled halts, if necessary, at the stations enroute in extreme emergencies. The Station Masters have details of doctors, clinics & hospitals, both Government and Private, in the vicinity of the station, so that their services can be requisitioned, in emergencies. In addition, a database has also been developed regarding availability of the non-railway medial facilities for providing emergency medial care to sick travelling passengers in the Trains and at the station enroute.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The front line staff on trains is responsible for providing First Aid medical facilities in trains. There is no policy to provide compensation to the passengers who die in trains for want of medical facilities in trains as Hospital like facilities cannot be provided in running trains.

Deterioration of IInd AC coaches

3000. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that condition of IInd AC sleeper coaches is deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to replace all the old coaches; and

(c) the details of Government plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, coaches are replaced when they are condemned on age-cum-condition basis. Coaches beyond codal life are not used in commercial passenger service.

Gulbarga Bidar Railway Line

3001. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to link Gulbarga Bidar railway line;

(b) what is the total estimate costs of this project;

(c) how much period will be required for the completion of this project;

(d) how much amount has been provided for the year 2006-07 in the budget; and

(e) how many stations will be coming under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Gulbarga-Bidar new line is a sanctioned work which has been taken up.

(b) The total anticipated cost of this work is Rs. 369.70 crore.